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Fifty-first session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Letter dated 27 May 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

As you know, I intend to submit my report on the reform of the United Nations to Member States in July and, with your agreement, I would like to present it directly to the General Assembly. The report will cover the further measures I intend to take for restructuring the Secretariat and improving its capacities and effectiveness in serving Member States, as well as my proposals for consideration by Member States in areas within their purview.

The issues to be addressed in the report will be wide-ranging and interrelated. Consequently, I believe that it is important that they be addressed collectively. Therefore, I propose that, in the first instance, an additional item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals" be included in the agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly.

I would like to present my report personally to the General Assembly under the proposed new item. Based on the discussions we have had, I expect to be in a position to do so on 16 July.

I trust that this timing will make it possible for ministerial statements in the general debate at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly to respond to the proposals in my report. I also hope that procedures for the subsequent consideration of the report by the Assembly will ensure that the proposals in my report will continue to be addressed in an integrated manner.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-14531 (E) 020697 030697

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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

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Letter dated 27 May 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Addendum

97-15841 (E) 110697

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

It will be recalled that, in his letter dated 17 March 1997 to the President of the General Assembly (A/51/829), the Secretary-General stated:

> "Upon assuming the office of Secretary-General, I undertook to lead a thorough and wide-ranging review of the activities of the United Nations and the manner in which they are conducted with a view to reconfiguring the Organization to meet the changing needs of the world community as it moves into the next millennium.
>
> "I am now in a position to bring to the attention of Member States my immediate management and organizational measures as described below. This is in keeping with the wish of the General Assembly that there be a timely dialogue between Member States and the Secretary-General on the process of the restructuring of the Secretariat. I do not intend this as a comprehensive review of the overall reform process, which will be the subject of a report I intend to complete in July for submission to the Assembly.
>
> "I am determined that change be accomplished in a manner that renews the confidence of Member States in the relevance and effectiveness of the Organization and revitalizes the spirit and commitment of staff."

In his subsequent letter dated 27 May 1997 to the President of the General Assembly (A/51/239), the Secretary-General confirmed that he would be in a position to submit his further report on the reform of the United Nations to Member States in July, and expressed the wish to present it, with the President's agreement, directly to the Assembly. The Secretary-General explained that the report would cover the further measures he intended to take for restructuring the Secretariat and improving its capacities and effectiveness in serving Member States, as well as his proposals, for consideration by Member States, in areas within their purview.

In his letter of 27 May, the Secretary-General further indicated that he wished to present his report personally to the General Assembly. He suggested that he might do so under a proposed additional agenda item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals" and noted, in the same context, that the issues to be addressed in the report would be wide-ranging and interrelated and would, in his view, best be considered by the membership in an integrated manner.

Subject to the action to be taken by the General Assembly on the Secretary-General's proposal for the inclusion of this new item on the agenda of the fifty-first session, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to propose that this agenda item also be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session and that consideration of his report be pursued under the item at that session.

It should be added that it is not intended that this should remain a standing item on the agenda of subsequent sessions of the General Assembly. The sole purpose of the Secretary-General's proposal at this stage is to provide a suitable framework for the presentation of his report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session and its integrated consideration at the fifty-second session.